



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,456	09/16/2003	Dean Hedin	5887-308US	2195

570 7590 04/19/2006

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD L.L.P.
ONE COMMERCE SQUARE
2005 MARKET STREET, SUITE 2200
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

EXAMINER

SPRIGG, SEAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3712

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/663,456	Applicant(s) HEDIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Sean Sprigg	Art Unit 3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/16/2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/16/03, 9/17/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statements (IDS) submitted on 9/16/2003 and 9/17/2004 are being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the steps of the method of claim 14 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. Additionally, the drawings are objected to because the unlabeled rectangular box(es) numbered 17 shown in the drawings should be provided with descriptive text labels.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

Art Unit: 3712

Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 8 and 14 recites the limitations "the first controller" and "the second controller". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purposes of this examination, "the first controller" and "the second controller" will be interpreted as --the controller of the first amusement device— and --the controller of the second amusement device—, respectively, as this element appears to be what the Applicant is currently referring to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Art Unit: 3712

6. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by LeMay'213 (US Pub. No. 2003/0176213).

7. Regarding claims 1-13, LeMay'213 teaches a system having a first amusement device (see Fig. 10 lead line 61) with memory (see lead line 226 proximate lead line 61) and a controller (see lead line 224 proximate lead line 61) that is connected to a first shared resource device (see lead line proximate lead line 61), is in communication with the second amusement device (see Fig. 10, lead lines 71 and 62, and par. 110), and is configured to access and control a second shared resource device through a second amusement device (see pars. 43, 51, 55, 110, and 119), and a second amusement device (see Fig. 10 lead line 62) with memory (see lead line 226 proximate lead line 62) and a controller (see lead line 224 proximate lead line 62) that is connected to a second shared resource device (see lead line proximate lead line 62), is in communication with the first amusement device (see Fig. 10, lead lines 71 and 61, and par. 110), and is configured to access and control the first shared resource device through the first amusement device (see pars. 43, 51, 55, 110, and 119). LeMay'213 teaches that the shared resource could be many devices including a printer, card reader, bill validator, video display, a communication device, or an input device of a touchscreen or a keypad/keyboard (see par. 19). LeMay'213 teaches that one or both of the amusement devices has an audio system attached (see pars. 19, 42, and 54). LeMay'213 teaches that the communication is over a LAN, WAN, wireless communication system, hardwired communication system, or a point-to-point connection (see pars. 51 and 110). LeMay'213 teaches that the controller of the first amusement device runs a terminal

Art Unit: 3712

server application upon a request of the controller of the second amusement device (see par. 23), the terminal server application is configured to accept commands to control inputs/outputs of the first amusement device controller (see par. 44), and that the second amusement device controller controls the shared resource device by commanding the inputs/outputs of the first amusement device using the terminal server application (see pars. 23 and 44). LeMay'213 also teaches that the first and second amusement devices can simultaneously access and control each other's shared resource device by teaching that each controller can access and control the shared devices of another gaming machine and teaching that so long as a single shared device is not being currently controlled, it is available for use by the requesting controller, thereby implying that a first amusement device can control the second amusement device's peripherals while the second amusement device controls the first amusement device's peripherals (see par. 45). LeMay'213 also teaches that there are a plurality of additional amusement devices (see Fig. 10 lead line 63 and par. 119) each with memory (see lead line 226 proximate lead line 63) and a controller (see lead line 224 proximate lead line 63), wherein each of the additional amusement devices is in communication with the first and second amusement devices (see Fig. 10, lead lines 71, 61 and 62, and par. 110) and is configured to access and control the first and second shared resource devices through the first and second amusement devices (see pars. 43, 51, 55, 110, and 119), individually and simultaneously (see par. 45 and discussion of simultaneous control above).

Art Unit: 3712

8. Regarding claim 14, LeMay'213 teaches a method of controlling a shared resource in a networked system of devices such as the one described above, wherein the method has the steps of using the second controller to make a request that the first controller run a terminal server application, and controlling the shared resource device using the second controller by commanding the inputs/outputs of the first amusement device using the terminal server application (see par. 23).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Takemoto'795 (USPN 5,797,795), Ogawa'375 (US Pub. No. 2004/0002375), Grabar'610 (WO 02/25610 A1) and McGarvey'670 (GB 2 371 670 A).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Sprigg whose telephone number is (571) 272-5562. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3712

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMS
4/12/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Corbett" being more prominent.

CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER